MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): No notification was published in the Gazette.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*): May I know from the member whether he has gone through the Gazette dated the 18th and the 32nd Mithunam?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): Yes, I have gone through them.

MR E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): In view that the interest charged in different divisions is different, may I know what the position of Government is with regard to the answer contained in part (*b*)?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): It all depends upon the different character of the undertakings by the contracting parties.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): What is the basis on which the department has fixed these different rates, 12 per cent. for the Koni Division and 6 per cent. for the Kottayam Division, irrespective of the parties?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): It is stated in the answer that it is determined according to the character and importance of the undertakings.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Is it the position of Government that all undertakings in the Koni Division, unanimously and uniformly, are different from those in the Kottayam Division?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): I want to know whether the basis for such distinction is the magnitude———

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): It is not a question of the magnitude of the work · the rate of interest depends on the character and importance of the work.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): In what respect, I wish to know because the answer does not contemplate any difference between territorial divisions. On the other hand, it contemplates difference in the obligation of parties. It is the Government that say in the answer that there is difference between territorial divisions in the character of undertakings. I want to know the basis for such distinction between territorial divisions?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): There is no difference according to territorial limits; the difference is only according to the nature of work involved.

Sale of Soft-wood.

32. *MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*): Will the Government be pleased to state with reference to the answer to question No. 317 (*a*) of the Third Session of this Assembly:

(*a*) the quantity of soft-wood logs sold by the Forest Department during the years 1107, 1108 and 1109;

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(*b*) the several rates at which the sales were effected;

(*c*) the names of the respective purchasers; and

(*d*) how the sales were effected by calling tenders, or by auction or by private negotiation?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) 39,000 candies distributed as follows:—

Messrs. Harrisons and Crosfield. 32,000 candies.
,, The Tata Oil Mills Co. 6,000 candies.

(*b*) *Messrs. Harrisons and Crosfield.*

1,500 candies of Elavu and Cheeni at 6 as. 6 p. per c. ft.
29,500 candies of Elavu and Cheeni at 6 as 4 p. per c. ft.
2000 candies of Cheeni alone at 6 as. per c. ft.

Messrs. Tata Oil Mills Company.

6000 candies of Elavu and Cheeni at 8 as. per c. ft.

(*c*) Messrs. Harrisons and Crosfield Ltd., Quilon.
Messrs. The Tata Oil Mills Company Ltd. Ernakulam.

(*d*) Only by negotiations and with the sanction of Government.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*): With reference to the answer to part (*d*), may I know why, when soft-wood was sold at 8 annas per cubic foot to the Tata Oil Mills Company, it was sold at 6 annas odd per cubic foot to Messrs. Harrisons and Crosfield?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): I cannot say the exact reason now. It was considered necessary to fix the rates like that.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*): May I know why the sale was effected by negotiation instead of by calling for tenders?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): On account of the condition of the timber market at the time, sale by negotiation was considered best.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Was the process of public auction tried?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): I do not think it was tried in this case.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Why not?

PRESIDENT: The member has stated that, in view of the condition of the timber market, it was considered more profitable to Government to sell by negotiation.

Discussion of the Temple-Entry Committee Report.

33. * **MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil II*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have received a memorial to the effect that the two Houses of the Legislature should be given a chance to discuss the Temple Entry Committee Report before any orders are finally passed on it; and

(*b*) if so, what action they have taken in regard to that?

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